

/Catherine Witczak/ (10/26/2008)

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A catheter set for peritoneal dialysis comprising:

a generally tubular catheter having first and second ends, an extraperitoneal portion near the first end and an intraperitoneal portion near the second end and a passageway defined by an interior surface extending from the first end to the intraperitoneal portion; and

an insert extending along the passageway and comprising an elongated portion having an exterior surface which is sized relative to the interior surface of the catheter to achieve a snug fit between the interior surface of the catheter and the exterior surface of the insert, the insert defining a cavity and having an extraperitoneal end and an intraperitoneal end wherein the catheter further comprises a first plurality of side apertures formed on the intraperitoneal portion of the catheter and wherein the insert further comprises a second plurality of side apertures formed near the extraperitoneal end, the cavity being in fluid communication with the second plurality of side apertures.

Claim 2 (original): The set of Claim 1, which includes a plug placed in the extraperitoneal end of the insert after the catheter and insert have been implanted in a patient.

Claim 3 (original): The set of Claim 1, wherein the intraperitoneal end of the insert is open or closed.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The set of Claim 1, wherein the intraperitoneal section further comprises a coiled end or at least one disc extending perpendicularly from the peritoneal section.

Claim 5 (original): The set of Claim 1, which includes a guide placed in the cavity of the insert before the catheter and insert have been implanted in the patient.

Claim 6 (original): The set of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the insert and the plug includes a radio opaque member.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): The set of Claim 1, wherein a subcutaneous portion of the extraperitoneal section is straight or is curved.

Claim 8 (original): The set of Claim 1, wherein the catheter is a tube and the insert fills most of an open space defined by the tube.

Claim 9 (original): The set of Claim 1, which includes a syringe for injecting a liquid into the cavity.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The set of Claim 1, wherein the first plurality of apertures are grooves.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): The set of Claim 1, wherein the catheter further comprises at least one cuff for promoting tissue ingrowth.

Claim 12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (original): The set of Claim 11, wherein at least one aperture is an elongated flute.

Claim 14 (original): The set of Claim 1, wherein the insert is at least as long as the catheter.

Claim 15 (original): The set of Claim 1, which includes at least one piece of surgical string securing the catheter and the insert.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A catheter set for peritoneal dialysis comprising:
a generally tubular catheter having first and second open ends and comprising an extraperitoneal portion near the first end and an intraperitoneal portion near the second end and a passageway defined by an interior surface extending from the first end to the second end, and a first plurality of side apertures ~~on~~ formed near the second end;

an insert placed inside the catheter, the insert extending along the passageway and comprising an elongated portion having an exterior surface which is sized relative to the interior surface of the catheter to achieve a snug fit between the interior surface of the

catheter and the exterior surface of the insert, the insert defining a cavity and having an extraperitoneal end and an intraperitoneal end and a second plurality of side apertures formed near ~~on~~ the extraperitoneal end; and

a guide placed in the cavity and extending from the extraperitoneal end of the insert.

Claim 17 (original): The catheter set of Claim 16, wherein the guide is metal.

Claim 18 (original): The catheter set of Claim 16, which includes a trocar secured to the extraperitoneal end of the insert when the guide has been removed.

Claim 19 (original): The catheter set of Claim 16, wherein the guide defines a portion configured and arranged to be grasped and moved by a person.

Claim 20 (original): The catheter set of Claim 16, wherein the catheter includes at least one cuff.

Claim 21 (original): The catheter set of Claim 20, wherein the cuff includes at least one of a bead and a flange.

Claim 22 (original): The catheter set of Claim 16, wherein a portion of the catheter and insert is coiled.

Claim 23 (Previously presented): An obstructor for occupying space within a tubular catheter when inserted into a patient, the catheter defining first and second ends and a passageway defined by an interior surface extending between the first and second ends, the obstructor comprising:

a tube extending along the interior space of the catheter, the tube including an extraperitoneal end and an intraperitoneal end, a portion near the extraperitoneal end having an increased diameter and a plurality of side apertures, the portion contacting the first end of the catheter when the tube is inserted into the catheter, the intraperitoneal end of the tube extending at least substantially to the second end of the catheter, an outer diameter of the portion having an exterior surface which is sized relative to the interior surface of the catheter

to achieve a snug fit between the interior surface of the catheter and the exterior surface of the portion.

Claim 24 (original): The obstructor of Claim 23, wherein the larger diameter portion is sized to press-fit inside the catheter.

Claim 25 (original): The obstructor of Claim 23, wherein the tube houses a radio opaque member.

Claim 26 (original): The obstructor of Claim 23, wherein the tube is a first tube and the larger diameter portion is a second tube adhered to the first tube.

Claim 27 (Previously presented): The obstructor of Claim 23, wherein the tube is made from at least one material selected from the group consisting of: silicone, a fluoropolymer, polyurethane, polypropylene, metal mesh, metal spiral, and any combination thereof.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): The obstructor of Claim 23, wherein the tubular catheter further comprises an intraperitoneal end having a coiled end or at least one disc extending perpendicularly from the intraperitoneal section.

Claim 29 (original): The obstructor of Claim 23, which includes a plug inserted into the extraperitoneal end.

Claim 30 (Previously presented): The obstructor of Claim 23, wherein the tubular catheter further comprises a plurality of side apertures on the second end.

Claim 31 (withdrawn): A method for inserting a catheter comprising the steps of:

making an incision into a patient;

inserting the catheter, the catheter having an insert filling most of the internal space defined by the catheter; and

removing the insert after the catheter has been implanted.

Claim 32 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 31, wherein a guide is placed initially into the insert; and which includes the steps of using the guide to maneuver the catheter inside the patient and then removing the guide.

Claim 33 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 31, wherein the insert includes a tubular length and at least one hole defined by the tubular length, and which includes the step of injecting fluid into the tubular length, through the hole between the insert and the catheter.

Claim 34 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 33, which includes the step of placing a plug, in the insert after injecting the fluid into the insert.

Claim 35 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 33, which includes the step of removing the insert after injecting the fluid.

Claim 36 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 31, wherein at least one cuff is positioned on the catheter, and which includes the step of securing the cuff to the patient.

Claim 37 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 31, which includes making a plurality of incisions into the patient and the step of using the multiple incisions to guide the catheter in a plurality of directions.

Claim 38 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 37, which includes the step of using an instrument to bend the catheter inside the patient.

Claim 39 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 31, which includes the step before removing the insert of closing the insertion with the catheter and insert implanted inside the patient.

Claim 40 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 31, wherein removing the insert occurs after a period of time in which the insert and catheter have resided inside the patient.

Claim 41 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 31, which includes the step of flushing the catheter after the insert has been removed.

Claim 42 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 31, which includes the step of securing one end of the catheter to reside outside the body of the patient after the insert has been removed.

Claim 43 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 31, wherein the catheter is preformed to have a bead, wherein inserting the catheter includes inserting the preformed catheter.

Claim 44 (withdrawn): A method of implanting a catheter comprising the steps of:
implanting the catheter inside a patient, the catheter having an obstruction tending to disallow material from entering the catheter;
leaving the entire catheter inside the patient for a period of time; and
removing the obstruction and securing a portion of the catheter to extend outside the patient.

Claim 45 (Previously presented) The catheter set of Claim 16, wherein the first plurality of apertures are grooves.